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YELLOW-LEGGED LEDGER

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • TYLER HARPER, COMMISSIONER

Recently, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services confirmed the presence of the yellow-legged hornet in Matthews, NC. Read the full [press release](#) and find helpful information relevant to the state [here](#).

Update by the Numbers:

New Traps Deployed (Since January 2026): 1,263

Total traps deployed (August 17, 2023 – August 12, 2026): 3,374

Hornets found (July 30, 2026 – August 12, 2026): 515

Nests found & eradicated (July 30, 2026 - August 12, 2026): 13

Total nests found & eradicated (August 2023 – August 12, 2026): 182

- 2026: 33 embryo nests found | 15 primary nests | 19 secondary nests
- 2025: 4 embryo nests | 5 primary nests | 54 secondary nests
- 2024: 4 embryo nests | 3 primary nests | 40 secondary nests
- 2023: 5 secondary nests

Early detection is critical to preventing this invasive species from spreading to new areas of the state. Over the past two weeks alone, the Plant Protection Division team has successfully eradicated **12 secondary nests**, using both RFID trackers and visual tracking techniques.



Issue 49: July 30, 2026 – August 12, 2026

Secondary nest located by the YLH team in Guyton, Ga. (Photo by GDA)



View of a YLH nest through binoculars lens. (Photo by GDA)



Large secondary nest found by the YLH team in Isle of Hope, Savannah, Ga. (Photo by GDA)



Interns Jade Bigger and Natalie Burney on their last night working with the Plant Protection team in Savannah, Ga. (Photos by GDA)

This time of year, Georgians may notice large secondary nests, such as those pictured below. If you spot a suspected Yellow-legged Hornet or nest, please report it to the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Division at yellow.legged.hornet@agr.georgia.gov.

Important reminders:

- Monitoring beehives should be ongoing throughout the entire year.
- While hawking can happen at any time, it tends to peak before noon and again after 5 PM.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us eradicate this serious threat to Georgia's agriculture, our state's number one industry. For more information, visit GDA's Dedicated Yellow-legged Hornet webpage: <https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet>